A true Report of the gener

Imbarrement of all the English Shippes, vnder the domin
of the kinge of Spaine: and of the daungerous aduenture, a
wonderfull deliuerance, of a Ship of Londō called the Viol
being of the burthen of 130. Tunne: by the especiall prouid
of God, from the violence of Spanyardes, at a Port called
Sebastian in Biskay: which aduenture was enterprised
25. of May 1585. and was finished the 29. of the
same moneth, without hurt either to
men, or Ship.

LONDON

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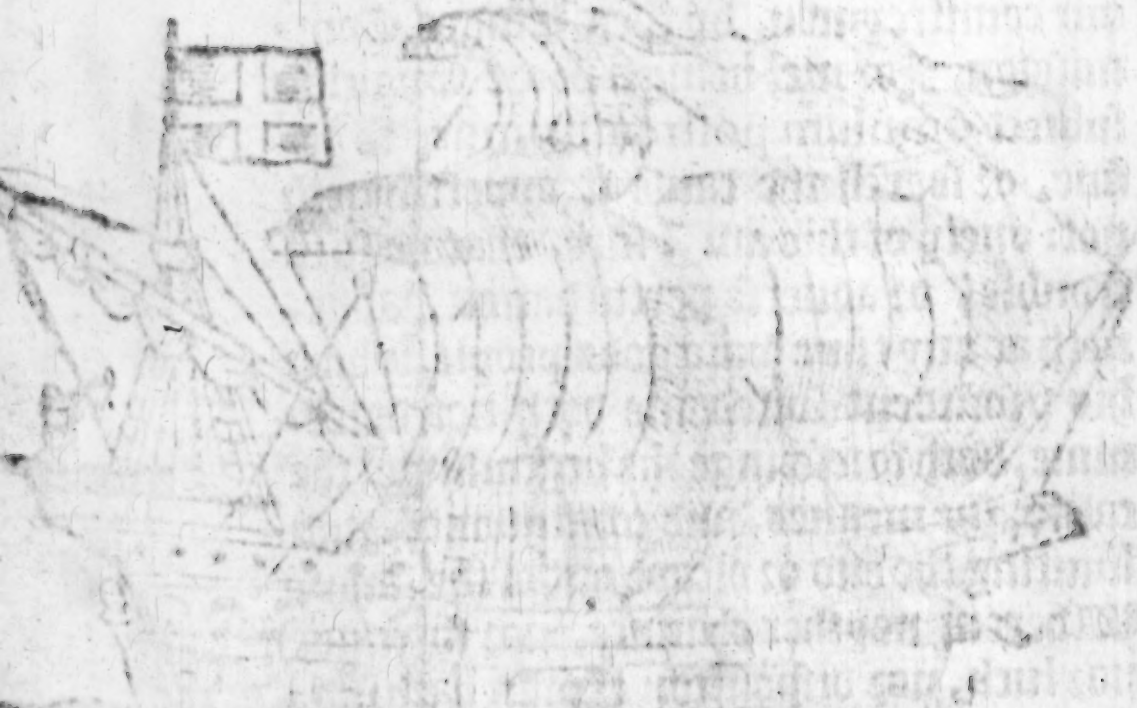
1585.



I Haue offered here vnto thy sighte (Gentle Reader) some kind of talke, such as it is, of the generall Imbarmẽt of al our English Ships nowe wrongfully withheldè, with the Portes of Spaine, from our countreymen, by their Kinges Commission. For me, being a poore Englishe subiect, omnium postremissimus, to define, or search the cause it appertayneth not: onely of this am I sure, that no such trouble, or aduerse perturbation happeneth at any time vnto gods people, which his prouident wisedome doth not determine, both foreseeinge the beginninge, the cause, the meanes, and continuance, and limiting the end or escape out of the same. Wherein neyther chaunce, nor fortune, nor luck, nor disposition of man hath maistery, but onely the gouernemente of the Lordes prouidence. It is but folly therefore to bee moued with the vnrighteous course of this wicked worlde: for wee see that euen from the beginning the wicked brode of the Serpẽt haue allwaies whet-

red their teeth against the womans seede: and that the children of darkenesse sometimes vexe, sometimes persecute, sometimes prevaile against the children of light. Howsoever the cause hereof proceedeth, whether for the punishment of our sinnes here in this life, or for our vigilant watch, or for our triall of faith, or for discovery of wicked and hollow hartes, or in fine for confusion of the adversary: this is certaine, it is the Lords doing, as the trouble, so the deliverance, and it is marvellous in our eyes. The Prophet David founde the experience hereof in the deserte of Maon: whome Saul and Doeg, and whole armies compassed in on every side, they hemmed him in, and came about him like stinging hornets: but yet unlooked for, when hee thought himselfe lost, yea when the gates of death had taken holde upon him, the Lorde of his especiall grace delivered him, and set his feete in a large rome. For God had sworne by his holinesse he would not faile David. And how can it be, but that the same our God having likewise in the same promise through Christ reconciled us his servantes unto him, and bound himselfe unto us, yea even the force, and power likewise of all his creatures, for

hee hath all power in his owne hand, how can it be, but that he doth and will protect especially, yea and wonderfully his seruauntes, that truely feare, and beleue in his holy, blessed, and almighty name.

This spirituall godnesse, and liuely feeling of faith, because it wanteth in the children of this worlde, where God wonderfully buildeth, they wilfully pluck down, and in reaching a naturall compasse, they ouerreach themselues, trusting and wholy depending vpon their worldly pollicy, and deuise. Hereby they haue confidence in the strength of their owne hand, but distrust in deede that our God is sufficiente almighty, and so by yoke, or by crooke, and extraordinary meanes perform their vnrighteous will, but vse violence & force against their Christian Faith. But whatsoeuer is rightly good, that, is of God, and what God will haue performed in performance thereof he worketh alwayes like vnto himselfe, for he is good: and therfore whatsoeuer is of him and his gouernment it is finished by good meanes, and hath his successe profitable, and good: as for the contrary, though it seeme good and profitable for the time, according as they would haue it, yet in small account, it proueth

méere losse, and vtter confusion, as they iustly deserue it.

In these actions lieth the triall of faith, and in such extremities, or baites of temptation is discerned the note, and difference of good spirites, and bad minded men. The one seeketh helpe, and thrusteth, or showeth his wil and purpose forward to some, though simple proofe, and that with iniuries, wickednes, and shipwracke of conscience: the other waiteth the Lordes leysure, with long, faithfull, and patient looking till he come. As the Henne ouer her Chickens, so doth the Lord ouer these hys seruants spread his winges, and especiall prouidence: for he couereth them as with a cloud in the heat of the day, and guideth them as a piller of light in darkenesse, hee is vnto them a springing well in time of drought, and a safe, or easie path and way in extreame daunger, yea through armies of men, and maine floudes of the red Sea.

The exploit lately attempted, and performed by some of our countreymen Marchantes, and Mariners, and chiefly encouraged thereunto by Rouland Randall master Gunner of the same Shippe, who lately, and most happely escaped the violence and bondage of the Spanyards doth

sufficiently

sufficiently declare the same. For whereas certaine English Shippes, the nomber as yet vncertaine, are at this present generally through al the dominiõ of Spaine imbarred, and arrested by King Philips Commission to his vse and seruice, when and where, and against whom it shal best please him, and are to that end watchfully and strõgly garded that none should scape, our men spoyled of their force, and power: it pleased notwithstanding the Lord our God most wõderfully, when all hope was past, to deliuer a Ship of London called the Violet from the rage, and tyranny of their oppressors: the truth wherof is thus as followeth.

The 25. of May last past this present yeare of our Lord 1585. ỳ aforesaid Ship called the Violet, with eight other Ships were at road in the Harbor or Quince of S. Sebastian. The Shipp was in burthen of 130. Tunne: which but a little before hauing vnbarcked her Marchandise, was now bound to England againe, and had to that end receiued in therefore Tunne. The English men in the Ship being thus occupied about their fraight, and the master Gonner Rouland Randall being on land, there came vnto them the Chorage

of Dore, the Captaine of ỳ Towne, so called, with the kinges Commission to stay the Ship, & take the sailes a shore: which they supposing to haue sufficiently performed, they departed.

The next day they came aboord againe, and called for a note of the furniture and shot. The master Gunner espying such a nomber in the Ship, plied him thither, and after many speeches he gaue a note therof, but not in such sorte, and so fully as they were furnished indeede. Certaine English Marchants came aboord the same time to make merry, but this newes was to them a bitter sause for their good cheere. The note of the shot that then was giuen was 8. Kalieuers, & 8. cast pieces, which they would haue had away, but that M. Bong became bound for the stay of the same and the Ship. The same day we heard that the Primerose M. Bondes Ship had escaped. Which escape so encouraged vs, considering the great suit we had made to get our discharge and could obtaine no fauor, that euery man in the Ship bound himselfe to other to stand to al extremities, and when time and winde serued, either to lose our liues, or finde a passage: Emboldned the rather by the forwardnes of Randall the

master

maſter Gunner, who left nothing vnaſſayed, or vnready for his part.

The Spanyardes albeit they had ſurpriſed all our ſailes, as they thought, with ſufficiēt bonds, yet for more ſecurity they enuironed vs with force by ſea & by land: 6000. men within and without the wals were attendāt on this ſeruice: three nights before our aduenture, beſides them that gaue aſſault, as you ſhall vnderſtande in the verſes followinge. But yet it pleaſed God to geue vs a gale of wind for paſſage, and ſo we aduentured our liberty through the midſt of our enemies, who made a wōderfull ſhowtinge and crying, O Anglois, Anglois.

After which our eſcape, a Pinnaſe followed vs with a Flag of Truce, wherein the Captaine had ſent an Engliſh Marchant wō letters for our returne: bindinge the ſame marchāt in 18000. crownes not to eſcape. This marchant and other Spanyards coming abord our Ship found, as they ſaid ſufficient power to withſtand all their force, and ſo were glad to depart with anſweare as followeth in the verſes.

THe day and yeare aforesaid was,
at Saint Sebastian:
The Violet of London staid
both Ship and also man.

The Captaine of the High Castell,
with Souldiors of his traine.
In Ship with Kinges Commission
tooke sailes from yard amaine.

They thought they had caught all our sailes
yet tooke but one away:
Our maine corse and a drabler,
the rest aboorde did stay.

As Ship in Quince then moored was,
by three kables full fast:
This newes to heare was straunge to vs,
and made vs all agast.

Counted was a boord on Ship
that present day at noone
Diuers, with marchants Englishmen
whose merryment soone was done.

The wind then being contrary
resistance was in vaine:
And therfore armed with patience
our handes perforce refraine.

Yea more then so: bondes must be made
that all thinges be foorth coming:
Then George Pong marchant of the Towne,
was bound vnto the king.

In body, goods, and all he had
incompast in a straite:
If Ship did scape, that then he should
remaine a Spanish baite.

The

The Ship continued stayd foure dayes,
without hope of releale:
No way was found for helpe, but care
did more, and more encreale.

For Spanyardes plyed with cruell force
to garde on euery side:
Inraught we were as birdes in cage
bereft of winde, and tide.

Their Ordinance great on Tower walles,
were bent against our Ship:
And Souldiors in a great Fisken
their smale shot well did keep.

A great Pinnase of twenty Tunnes
likewise a looke there lay:
Ye fraught with fifty Souldiors shot
our English Ship to stay.

What more, then fifty Soldiors were
plac'd on the Blockes hard by:
With Hargabushes redy prest
in watch there did they lye.

They planted fifty Souldiors more
vpon the Rockes by West:
And on the Blockes that there do lie
our Ship for to infest.

On watch tower, and vpon the wall
were set a hundred more
Of Souldiors shot, with Hargabushes
our English Ship to gore.

And if perhaps we scape all this
yet is the Castell strenge:
With hoat and roaring Cannons force
to lay our Ship a long.

In fine, the Harbors outlet is
but narrow for the place:
With Rockes, and Westerne raging seas
all hurtfull in such case.

Thus haue you heard the daungers great
wherein our Ship did lie:
Right happy men you may vs thinke
that now our Ship should flye.

For Ship in all vnreadinesse is
this nine and twentieth of May:
Therefore vnlike for to escape
at breaking of the day.

And no preparing was to be
before the time present:
Therefore to haue it well applyed
was euery mans intent.

What than? when earthly hope was past
we called vpon the Lord:
And humbled downe our woefull hartes
in prayers with one accord.

That he would still be vnto vs
our God and stretch his hand;
To rid vs from the power and thrall
of this same cursed land.

It pleased the Lord of his good grace
to heare our woefull cry:
And in good time a gale of wind
he sent vs prosperously.

Now cheere my hartes, the Master said
the winde doth serue our turne:
Be yare my mates and fellowes all,
or els we are vndone.

Bring ouer Bable to Kapskene,
beer both, or other fast:
Out end for end: geue Ship the way,
bring sales to yard, be prest.

Then did the slaues in Biskin cry,
Hola naue, adonda voye
O Anglois, Anglois, Anglois,
beginning to annoy.

Pit, pat. Baliuers thundred thicke
good fellowes cut our bable:
In hast, and hoyse our foresaile, shoot
as fast as you are able.

When once we past the great Biskine
and somewhat set at large:
From out the Blocke, and watch tower came
a second cry, and charge.

O Anglois, Anglois, Latherunes
o atarra arma:
O Diabilo the Anglois
arma, arma, arma.

The Pinnase that on other side
did lye with souldiors there:
Was gone before our going out
and did not come vs neere.

Now was our foresaile, and mystine
with foretopsaile also
Set rucking with our boat a head
amaine our Ship did goe.

The great shot straight from off Towne walles
did rage on euery side:
The Block shot, Rock shot, and Matchtowes
their deadly force haue tried.

At last the thundring Cannon shot
did roare from Castell hie:
We shronke not from our tackeling though,
twas time for vs to plie.

Than hoyst our maine topsaile aloft
being set with other three:
And so were like to runne on Rockes
tweene feare, and hope of glee.

But God our God, who from the shot
preserued vs: From the Blockes
Did shield our London Violet
likewise from daungerous Rockes.

Praysed be God our Lord therefore
who is of mightyes most
For that he hath defended vs
from Spanish bloudy coast.

At last alooke we spied full fast
a Pinnase to vs bent:
Which to our sight a Flagge of truce
did willingly present.

Strike Topsaile quoth our Master then
to approach lets geue them leaue:
Perhaps of their or our ill speede
some Newes we shall receiue.

Their message stood vpon three pointes
of Flattery, Threates, and Pity:
A seemely song for Spanish lippes
to catch some fooles vnwitty.

The first that if we would returne
a pardon we should haue:
And freedome large, as erst before,
the King our liues should saue.

For so the Captaine Generall
had sworne full solemnely:
Upon Gods Sacrament, say they,
beleue it verely.

If not, two Biskins with their shot
and thousand men likewise:
And other Shippes with Pinnaces
should quickely vs surprise.

And than our Ship, our Goods, our Liues
confiscate should remaine:
Unto the King, our Baile likewise
and Marchant should sustaine

The losse of Goods, and liberty,
and liue as Captiues thrall:
Besides a thousand mischiefes should
to vs and them befall.

When this would not preuaile, halas
Anglois, our men must die:
Who placed in Biskin for your stay,
haue let you safely flye.

Besides our Captaine of the Towne,
had rather loose this day
A hundred thousand Ducates, than
your Ship should thus away.

Their letters and their glosing speech
they both had this effect.
A booteleſſe parle, our short Auaunt
did easely them reiect.

We heard, said we, in harbour late
the cause of this our stay:
Forsooth our Ship, and shot should serue
the king for his owne pray.

And that our Ship should serue his vse
euen where it pleased his Grace:
And we beg homeward, or take vp
in Spaine a Captiues place.

What Spanyardes? thinke that we be men
and loth to loose our owne:
Our liues shall rather buy our scape
than wife, and children moane.

Auaunt therefore: do what you can,
dispatch your Ships with speede:
As for your King, your power and lawes
we passe them not a reede.

This aunsweare once receiued, forthwith
the Pinnase made away:
Our masters then with cheerefull hartes
vnto vs all gan say.

Our Ship you haue preserued this time
we thanke your manly hartes:
Our Ship though ours, yet now your guift,
who stoutly plaid your partes.

The Spanyardes yet made no reply
we no returne haue seene:
Therefore all praise be to the Lord
God saue our noble Queene.

FINIS.

R.D.